

VIETNAM COURIER

July 29
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UP TO JULY 25, 1968

3,055 U.S. aircraft were
downed in North Viet Nam

South Viet Nam MILITARY OPERATIONS:

P.L.A.F. Simultaneously Attack Quang Nam, Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces :

Da Nang Base, the 3 Provincial Capitals and Many Enemy Positions Bomarded or Stormed by Infantrymen (July 23 and 24).

Highway No 9: 457 Enemy Soldiers Killed or Wounded, Two Planes Downed and Four 155 and 175 mm Cannons Destroyed (Between July 17 and 23).

Nha Be Fuel Depot near Saigon Shelled Again and Units of U.S. Division 9 Attacked.

Enemy Operations Northwest of Saigon Foiled, Loc Ninh Base near Viet Nam-Cambodia Frontier Pounded.

U.S. General Commanding U.S. 7th Air Army Killed in Plane Downed by Patriotic Forces.



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Khe Sanh fighters prop their guns on wreckage of U.S. planes to shoot at U.S. planes.

Nothing Can Shake the South Viet Nam People's Determination To Wrest Back Their National Rights

(South Viet Nam N.F.L. July 20 Statement)

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has issued a statement on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam (July 20).

After tracing back the history of U.S. intervention and aggression in Viet Nam to 1954 and its bitter failures, the statement said :

"The South Vietnamese people ardently cherish peace, but that must be peace in independence and freedom. Nothing can shake the determination of the South Vietnamese people and Liberation armed forces to wrest back at all costs their national rights : independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity, and to achieve the ultimate peaceful reunification of their country. No brutal force, no reactionary power and no perfidious manoeuvre can prevent the South Vietnamese people's rush forward toward final victory. So long as the U.S. imperialists refuse to put an end to their aggressive war in South Viet Nam, withdraw the U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, dismantle their military bases there, and let the South Vietnamese people settle by themselves the internal affairs of South Viet Nam without foreign interference, the South Vietnamese people will continue to fight with arms in hand till final victory. Enjoying the

devoted assistance of their 17 million kindred compatriots of the North, and the sympathy, support and assistance of the progressive people throughout the world, the longer the South Vietnamese people fight, the bigger victories they will win and the more facilities will be given to them to mount continual offensives and vigorous uprisings and advance toward complete victory."

The statement "sincerely thanked the governments, mass organisations and democratic organisations, the peace- and justice-loving people in the world and the progressive people in the U.S. for their strong condemnation of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen's crime of aggression and war crimes in South Viet Nam, U.S. deceitful "peace" manoeuvres, and their warm encouragement and active assistance to the South Vietnamese people who have been pushing vigorously ahead their generalized attacks and widespread uprisings to fulfil their task of liberating South Viet Nam and defending North Viet Nam, thus contributing to the safeguarding of peace in Indo-China and the world."

The statement ended with a call for an even stronger moral and material support and assistance to the resistance of the South Vietnamese people against the U.S. aggressors.

ON June 21 last, Mr Dean Rusk asserted that there was no difference between a rocket fired on Saigon Cholon by P.L.A.F. artillerymen and a bomb dropped by American aircraft on North Vietnamese cities. This reminds us of another declaration by Mr Dean Rusk a year ago, when P.L.A.F.

Paris official talks have been spinning them out, failing to "ascertain the unconditional cessation by the United States of the bombing and all other acts of war on the whole of the territory of the D.R.V.N.", in accordance with the formula used by our Government and tacitly accepted by the American government.

Distinction Should Be Made Between the Aggressors and His Victim

units blew up an American vessel on the Saigon river: the U.S. Secretary of State complained that no voice was raised against this action whereas everybody was critical of American escalation of the war when American forces started preparations to mine the port of Haiphong.

Yet it was an extremely simple matter and the obdurate Washington leaders, among them Mr Rusk, were the only ones not to understand it. Or rather, they pretended not to understand. Distinction should be made between the aggressor and his victim.

By putting the two on the same footing, and even reversing the roles through the fabrication of an "aggression" of Viet Nam by Vietnamese, the representatives of Messrs Johnson, Rusk and Co at the

Proceeding from deliberate confusion between the aggressor and his victim, the American representatives in Paris have been repeating ad nauseam their old tunes on "reciprocity," "mutual de-escalation," etc. They keep wanting American "restraint" and demanding the same from the D.R.V.N.

Let's say right away that "restrained aggression" is pure nonsense: either there is aggression, or there isn't. We must also say that the Americans have shown no "restraint" whatever in their aggression against both North and South Viet Nam. The recent Johnson-Thieu meeting in Honolulu was but a new opportunity for the Washington rulers to directly give

(Continued page 2)

THE 14th session of the official conversations between the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government and that of the U.S. Government was held in Paris on July 14.

U.S. representative Averell Harriman took the floor first. He tried his best to advertise the Johnson administration's position. Nguyen Van Thieu's Honolulu meeting and praised its communiqué as an expression of the concord of the U.S. and the Saigon puppet administration about "seeking a path of peace."

He also said that the U.S. will withdraw its force from Viet Nam as soon as the Saigon puppet administration was "constitutional."

In his speech, Minister of State Xuan Thuy had made the aggressive nature and perfidious attitude of the U.S. side and point by point disposed of the arguments of the U.S. representative.

He made it plain that a sensible settlement on the Viet Nam problem must be based upon the four points of the Government of the D.R.V.N. and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. He said that the United States must unconditionally stop its bombing and other acts of war on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N., then other questions of settlement will be easier to settle. He said that the U.S. must stop its bombing and other acts of war on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N., then other questions of settlement will be easier to settle.

Such behaviour of the U.S. is nothing short of an insolent challenge to public opinion.

Distinction Should Be Made...

(Continued from page 1)

THE bad faith of the men in Washington needs no further demonstration. It has raised the indignation of broad segments of world and American opinion. Many American organizations have gone to Paris to protest against the U.S. aggression against the D.R.V.N. and the political programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. The indignation of broad segments of world and American opinion. Many American organizations have gone to Paris to protest against the U.S. aggression against the D.R.V.N. and the political programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

American propaganda has tried to present the position of the U.S. as rigid one. But wasn't our good will evident when our Government proposed that talks be held in Paris in spite of the continuation of American bombings on a large part of our territory? We have also unconditionally declared that the bombing and all other acts of war have stopped unconditionally all over the territory of the D.R.V.N. The Paris talks will deal with other problems of concord to both parties. Distorting the formula and playing the words, the American representatives have demanded simultaneous discussion of the cessation of the bombing and of related problems. The measure is as plain as the staff: it is again to find, in another form, that demand of "reciprocity."

And when Mr. Harriman says that American bombings will only stop when the U.S. sees the need for a clear-cut division of the U.S. and the D.R.V.N. into two areas, the aggressor and his victim. The American leaders, who had ignored the Geneva agreements and considered this a principle of their Viet Nam policy, have been pleading, especially in the past few days, these accords. Here again, their stance rests on delicate confusion between the aggression and its victim and a distortion of the Geneva agreements. Such a stance should be such and condemned. The only solution truly based on a correct understanding of the Geneva accords is the one supplied by the four points of the D.R.V.N., which call for: the withdrawal from the territory of Viet Nam of all American and satellite troops and the cessation of the bombing against Viet Nam. This is the only way to guarantee the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, the prohibition of foreign troops and military bases on the territory of either one of Viet Nam, and of military alliances binding either one to a foreign country; the settlement of the internal affairs of South Viet Nam by the South Vietnamese themselves, in accordance with the Political Programme of the N.F.L., without foreign interference; the peaceful reunification of Viet Nam as decided by the Vietnamese people of both zones, without any external interference. This is the most urgent course of action

the current conversations started, and we have repeated many times that if the American side did so other questions of concord to both sides would be discussed."

All the proposals made by the U.S. side, Mr. Xuan Thuy summed up as unreasonable and deceptive and which would lead the U.S. into the wheel of the Paris talks.

The D.R.V.N. representative provided factual evidence showing that the U.S. side has resorted to dodges and diversion to elude the main objective of the talks, Viet Nam, the U.S. intensifies its attacks on the North Viet Nam by its aggressive war in the South.

Mr. Xuan Thuy then analysed the joint communiqué of the Honolulu conference between Mr. Johnson and Nguyen Van Thieu and bared U.S. aggressive schemes hidden in it, namely:

— The U.S. will further push up its war of aggression, increase the puppet army and send more weapons to South Viet Nam.

— The U.S. keeps demanding "reciprocity" to get away from the bombing on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. The U.S. referred to the withdrawal of troops according to the method laid down in the Manila communiqué in October 1966. This in fact would mean no withdrawal at all. The U.S. still refuses to recognize the N.F.L., the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people.

— The U.S. still schemes to prolong the partition of Viet Nam in order to create two Vietnamese states and vanquish the Nguyen Van Thieu Government by an instrument for carrying out its

neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam.

— The U.S. keeps playing cunning games to confuse the right and the wrong and shift the responsibility onto the D.R.V.N. side and this is merely to belittle the American people and the world's peoples and conceal the U.S. aggressive designs.

In conclusion, the D.R.V.N. representative said: "I would like to reiterate and to stress that the U.S. side has resorted to dodges and diversion to elude the main objective of the talks, Viet Nam, the U.S. intensifies its attacks on the North Viet Nam by its aggressive war in the South."

After Mr. Xuan Thuy's speech, Mr. Harriman again asked for the U.S. side to demand "reciprocity" to get away from the bombing on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. He also reiterated U.S. demand for "reciprocity" as a condition for the withdrawal of troops according to the method laid down in the Manila communiqué in October 1966.

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THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

PRESIDENT HO'S APPEAL WIDELY RESPONDED TO

AFTER the publication on July 20, 1968 of President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, the President of the U.S. of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front held a meeting to discuss this historical document and issued a communiqué which read: "At the moment when the war of resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation has switched into a new stage, this appeal sounds like a call by the sacred voice of the beloved Fatherland and a pressing battle cry for our compatriots and fighters throughout the country. Representatives of various political parties and mass organizations, of the People's Army, various ethnic and religious groups and personal members of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, who took part in the discussions, expressed the enthusiasm, confidence and pride of various sections of the people and their determination to fight and to win. It was decided at the meeting to step up the mass mobilization to impulse the patriotic emulation movement, to put into practice the slogan 'Everything for our victory over U.S. aggressive imperialism', to push ahead the economic and cultural construction and development, to exert great efforts to build up national defence, ensure public security, keep transport and communications good, help our southern compatriots with might and main and fulfil to the utmost the task of the great rear toward the great front."

The same day, meetings and rallies took place throughout the country, even on battlefields or working sites. Each citizen pledged himself to translate into action his determination to fight and to defeat U.S. aggression.

The fighters at Con Co, a 4-square kilometre island off the mouth of the Ben Hai river, on the 17th parallel, decided to brighten their vigilance and to down within the shortest time the 200th U.S. plane, in the Vinh Lam area, to which it belongs.

Two hours after hearing President Ho Chi Minh's appeal and marking this great event by a short meeting, an A.A. unit of Nghe An province got the credit for grounding the 400th U.S. plane in the province.

The lorry drivers' group No 846 headed by labour hero Cao Ba Tuyet, attacked for over 1,000 times by U.S. planes, promised to get home under all circumstances supplies for the front and to overfill the State plan.

At the port of Haiphong, on the same morning the outgoing and incoming ships decide to work one hour overtime.

In the Quang Ninh mining area, excavator drivers in the brigade led by Vu Xuan Thu, a labour hero, boosted their efficiency by 30 per cent. Vu Xuan Thu himself exceeded the target by 75 per cent.

Farmers of an agricultural co-operative at Phu Xa, a village in the vicinity of Hanoi, vigorously raised by U.S. planes on August 13, 1966, were resolved to do their best to finish the transplanting of the autumn-winter rice before August 5, 1968 within the time limit set for a good crop.

The same day, the youth in the village widened and beautified a lane which they called the "July 20th Road."

After a meeting to welcome President Ho Chi Minh's appeal in the very place where a dozen of their beloved ones lost their lives nearly a year ago, the inhabitants of Hue Street, Hanoi, gave a strong filip to their civil defence.

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wide spread disease in Viet Nam, tuberculosis for instance, is the province a dangerous affection which took a high toll of lives every year. Relevant documents left by the French colonialists and the U.S. Government. Some figures, however, will give us an idea of the magnitude of its problem. In 1966, for example, the rate of tuberculosis was effected on a large scale. Every year 25,000 people receive attention in the T.B. establishments. The number of patients under treatment is placed under their observation rose to 13,000 by the end of 1967-1968. The number of cures averaged 20,000 annually.

The use of B.C.G. has made possible anti-T.B. vaccination on a large scale.

Between 1965 and 1966, 1,500,000 new-borns were inoculated, 25 million injections were watered down for the age group below five years, 33 per cent for those between 5 and 10, 64 per cent between 11 and 25, and 76 per cent for those above 25. Another document showed that the proportion was 42 per cent for those among those above 25 years of age. According to Doder, in the plain the rate was 36.6 per cent for the age group below five years, 60 per cent for that between 10 and 24 and 59.5 per cent for that above 25 years of age.

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Preventive measures against such a terrible disease were not non-existent under the colonial regime. The three anti-tuberculosis dispensaries in Hanoi, Hue and Saigon hardly lived up to their names. For example, in Saigon, 20 million there were barely 400 beds for T.B. sufferers in the hospitals of the city. The T.B. section of the Ho Chi Minh Hospital had in all 30 beds at its disposal, placed in the contagious disease sector of the Bach Mai hospital. T.B. doctors could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

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After the restoration of peace in 1954, though claimed by many urgent tasks, the Party and Government made the protection of public health one of their foremost concerns. From the very beginning, stress was laid on the fight against epidemic diseases, and in particular, against such diseases including tuberculosis.

In ten years, a relatively comprehensive network of anti-tuberculosis establishments has been set up. There is at present in North Viet

Nam an Anti-T.B. Institute, two anti-T.B. hospitals, 300 dispensaries in the provinces and zones to care for in-patients and consultants, and many dispensaries in the districts and villages. There are in all 5,000 beds for T.B. patients.

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U.S. - PUPPET HONOLULU MANOEUVRES CONDEMNED BY ALL VIETNAMESE

THE spokesman of the Commission for Foreign Relations of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation issued on July 23 a statement on the Honolulu meeting between U.S. President Johnson and puppet "President" Nguyen Van Thieu.

The statement said:

"Johnson and Thieu reiterated all the slanderous charges they had been using to misrepresent the South Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation and to defend North Viet Nam. Under the pretext of honouring their 'commitments' to the Saigon administration they tried to justify the aggressive acts of the U.S. deny the South Vietnamese people's right to resist aggression, evade the unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war by the U.S. against the D.R.V.N.

"Thieu's so-called view on the 'essential condition for peace in South Viet Nam' in fact is the U.S. theory which regards South Viet Nam as a separate 'state', and aimed at prolonging the partition of Viet Nam and turning South Viet Nam into a neo-colony and military base of the U.S.

"As for Johnson's claim for a 'just' solution at the conference table, it is none other than one for the Vietnamese people's acceptance of the absurd 'reciprocity' condition set by the U.S. This is the stand of the aggressor, which has been flatly rejected by the Vietnamese people and strongly condemned by the world's peoples."

After exposing new U.S. crimes and war schemes in both zones of Viet Nam, the statement said: "It is obvious

that, despite its growing passivity, deadlock and setbacks the U.S. obdurately pursues its war of aggression in South Viet Nam and the war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is the only obstacle to the restoration of peace in Viet Nam, to the progress of the D.R.V.N.-U.S. conversations in Paris."

The statement ended with a resolute condemnation of the U.S. persistence in its war of aggression and its perfidious moves.

The spokesman for the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry also released on July 24 a statement to the press about the conference held on July 19 and 20, 1968 in Honolulu, between Johnson and Nguyen Van Thieu.

The statement pointed out that at that conference the U.S. and its puppets plotted to intensify the aggressive war in Viet Nam and the U.S. still tried to dull up the Saigon puppet administration, a clique of traitors strongly abhorred by the entire people of South Viet Nam. There the Saigon stooge administration was ordered by their masters to draft more South Vietnamese youths as cannon-fodder for the U.S. plan of war intensification.

On the other hand, the U.S. stubbornly refused to stop unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war in North Viet Nam; it still sets "conditions" for the withdrawal of American troops, and refuses to recognize the South Viet Nam N.F.L. as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people.

"It is clear that the U.S. continues to stick to its aggressive design against Viet Nam," the statement stressed.

FOR three months the Nguyen Van Thieu clique even beating the big drums of propaganda about a forthcoming "visit" to Washington. "Bilateral talks between the two Presidents," a "special" meeting to review the military, political, diplomatic situation, etc. But as pointed out in an AFP dispatch of July 17, Johnson was afraid lest Thieu's "visit" would turn into anti-war demonstrations in the United States, shed unwanted light on the Viet Nam problem during the presidential election campaign, thus harming his faction. And that is why, whereas Thieu tried his best to inflate the importance of his meeting with Johnson, the latter had shown the greatest reluctance. He summoned Thieu to Honolulu, and their "talks" lasted a mere ten hours, on July 19 and 20. The aim of the meeting was, as far as Johnson was concerned, to dull up his valets and at the same time impose on them a few more decisions; as for Thieu, it was an occasion to receive new orders and at the same time vent grievances and put forward new requests.

The new decisions forced by Johnson on Thieu do not constitute a new policy, but measures designed to face a new situation: as a result of general attacks and simultaneous uprisings of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces, the American war of aggression is threatened with complete collapse.

Within a period of five months, from January 30 to June 30, 1968, in the battlefields of South Viet Nam, over 350,000 American, puppet and satellite troops were put out of action; three-fourths of their air forces, four-fifths of their armour and an immense quantity of supplies were destroyed. The Americans received staggering blows and were stretched thin; their fighting strength and mobility was on the wane. The puppet troops were destroyed and disbanded in large numbers, and proved utterly unable to undertake either

offensive or defensive operations. The liberation war was carried right into the cities. The U.S. puppet position was shaken to its very foundation. From top to bottom, the puppet administration was tottering and about to crumble. The traitors were torn by internal strife, and an "unshared war" was on between their ringleaders. As a result of their heavy setbacks the American aggressors were forced to decide a limit to their operations and to send representatives to meet government's delegates in Paris. Fear, that their American masters would let them down began haunting the minds of the Thieu-Ky clique.

AGAINST this background of setbacks, defeats, and disintegration, the first order given his valets by Johnson, according to their "joint communiqué" and other reports, was to strengthen and increase the puppet troops' combat effectiveness. On their part, the Americans promised more substantial weapon supplies so that the puppet forces could replace them as cannon fodder on the battlefields. Paying obedience, Thieu promised to "prepare the Vietnamese nation and armed forces for the important and decisive role that will be theirs" and show "determination" in following the Americans to the end in their war of aggression in Viet Nam.

This attempt at "Vietnamization" the American war of aggression in the South is evidence of Johnson's obstinacy in his effort to cling to South Viet Nam and prosecute the American policy of neo-colonial aggression. But this new move will not be a shot in the arm for the decaying puppet forces; it will not remedy the American shortage of troops in the South; neither will it extricate the Americans and their valets from their present quagmire.

The second order given Thieu by Johnson was to force Viet Nam to undertake, on the basis of the increased "prestige" built up for him, to rally his agents around

him and try to prop up the collapsing puppet administration. Johnson was loud in his praises for Thieu having created a "constitutional and popularly elected government" and tried his best to dispel his Saigon lackeys' fear that he would sell them down the river. But however much money and effort the Americans put into this attempt to bolster up the puppet valets, it will fail miserably. The Saigon administration is composed of wretched American stooges, born of farcical and fraudulent "elections," supported by American dollars and bayonets. The more solidly Johnson shows for Thieu and turns a cold shoulder to Ky, the more savagely Thieu, Ky and other American agents will try to cut each other's throat, and the greater the danger of collapse for the Saigon administration.

THE Honolulu meeting reflects the American imperialist's obstinacy in sticking to the path of war. In the joint communiqué, Johnson raved about "the U.S. forces fighting to repel external aggression," "the U.S. having no other ambitions in Viet Nam," "the U.S. not supporting the imposition of a coalition government, or any other government, on the people of South Viet Nam," "the U.S. forces to be withdrawn as North Viet Nam takes its men home," "the Americans seeing no alternative but to continue" the bombing of North Viet Nam unless there is a "response" from Hanoi, etc. The same obstinacy had been shown in previous meetings with the Saigon puppets - in Hanoi (Feb. 1966), Manila (Oct. 1965), Guam (March 1967), Canton (December 1967), so for the situation of the Americans and their stooges to go from bad to worse, each time.

The recent farce staged in Honolulu is but a worn-out post utterly incapable of propping up the American imperialist's undertaking about to collapse in the hurricane of the Vietnamese people's war.

HISTORIAN Arnold Toynbee says that the destinies of the whole world are involved in Viet Nam. So much of the world's attention has been focused on it, that this small nation has become the most important country in the world.

There is such a divergence between public pronouncements and facts that our people are divided and confused. Alan Paton says, "Man is capable of creating tremendous noble slogans and shouting them aloud while doing ignoble deeds - and the more ignoble the deeds, the louder the slogans are shouted."

Let us examine some of the slogans and the facts or lack of facts that lie behind them:

We are most frequently told the chief objective in Viet Nam is 'self determination' for the Vietnamese people. A careful reading of the 1954 Geneva Accords indicates that they offered exactly that. After a cooling off period for the departure of the French, a free election under supervision of the International Commission was to be held in 1956. That election was never held because Ngo Dinh Diem, who had been elected as premier by the United States, with our encouragement, refused to hold them. President Eisenhower said that they had been held, 80 per cent of the people would have voted for Ho Chi Minh.

South Viet Nam has had a series of dictatorships for thirteen years that were unpopular with the people. Generals hold power by virtue of the support of U.S. tanks, aircraft, and troops. The recently elected general assembly consisted of a carefully screened group of mandarins and wealthy landowners who have dominated Viet Nam for a thousand years. Students and Buddhists protest that the recent Presidential elections were a fraud.

A news dispatch a few days ago reported that 240,000 leaflets were dropped on a Vietnamese village which said that the village would be bombed again and again and advised the villagers to defect to the Saigon government if they wished to live. This does not sound like self-determination.

The Administration says repeatedly that we made commitments to the government of South Viet Nam that must be kept. According to the U.S. Constitution, foreign policy shall be conducted by the executive with the advice and consent of the Senate. I can find no record of the U.S. ever having advised or consented to any commitments to the government of South Viet Nam. If they do find record of their having consented to and ratified the charter of the United Nations and our acts in Viet Nam are in direct violation of that charter.

Another slogan is that we are supporting the "free world." Our 'free world' has some poor examples in the military dictatorships in Greece, in Taiwan, in Haiti, and a dozen other countries, not to mention

that of General Ky in South Viet Nam. It would be a little closer to the truth to say that we are supporting any government anywhere that is anti-communist, regardless of the wishes or the freedom of the people.

It is said that our national honor is at stake. Norman Cousins in an editorial in the *Saturday Evening Post*, says, "The President is indeed right that our national honor is at stake because things are being done in Viet Nam that are dishonorable and inconsistent with the meaning of American history."

In a recent speech in Texas, the President said the key to our involvement in Viet Nam is our own national security. He did not explain how tiny Viet Nam could threaten the security of the United States. There seems to be little danger of the Vietnamese Navy capturing San Francisco or landing an invasion force.

Another slogan is that we must stop communism. Three years ago the North Vietnamese General Ky said that there were over 95,000 active communists in South Viet Nam. Today the official report indicates that about 300,000 active communists are in South Viet Nam. If we are stopping communism, how do the numbers grow at such a rate? A Vietnamese teacher watching the bombing of a Vietnamese village said, "Today we make many communists."

The Secretary of State says that we are fighting now in Viet Nam to prevent a bigger war in the future. The news reports indicate that this is a good-sized war now, and it has dire prospects of growing directly into the bigger war that we are trying to prevent.

Russia has promised that for every escalation by the U.S., she will increase her aid to Viet Nam. That aid has been increasing. We need to remember that Russia has a more valid commitment to support North Viet Nam than we have to support South Viet Nam, and the probabilities are that she will keep that commitment. China has promised that she will not see Viet Nam defeated. Most Chinese scholars and experts believe that China will keep that promise. We would certainly go all out if China or Russia were attacking Canada or Mexico on our borders.

Congressmen voting funds for the Viet Nam war say we must support our boys in Viet Nam. I dare say that if you took a poll of the boys in Viet Nam, they would find an enormous preference for being supported at home. We certainly don't support them by pushing more and more of them into the jungles and mud of a country 10,000 miles away in a war that they don't understand and for which they have little enthusiasm. Is that the support we offer?

We must win the hearts and minds of the people. This is really a phrase substituted to pacify them by keeping a large part of the army in the villages to reinforce

their desire for the blessings of American democracy. The only ones we don't have to pacify are those who are selling P.X. goods on the black market in Saigon.

Our military personnel report that the N.I.L.F. soldiers are the best fighters that they have ever seen. At the same time they report that the Saigon army is not interested in fighting—that the soldiers are unreliable—that they desert by the thousands. These Saigon soldiers are of the same blood and nationality as the N.I.L.F. What could be the explanation of this? It is possible that the common people and the Saigon Government's soldiers do not believe in or support the government for which they are forced to fight?

"It is a simple case of aggression by North Viet Nam against neighbouring country." There is no historical foundation for the statement that North and South Viet Nam are two countries. The Geneva Accords state plainly that the 17th parallel is a temporary line made originally to separate the armies of the French and the Viet Minh. General Ky was born in Hanoi. If there are two countries, we have a paradoxical situation in that the dictator, the President of South Viet Nam is a foreigner from the enemy country that is doing the aggression.

"Wars of national liberation must not be permitted to succeed." If this statement is true, the status quo is frozen in the entire world by edict from America. No peoples dissatisfied with their government, no matter how autocratic or dictatorial.

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PHOTOS: — Top: To smash this child from his mother who is going to be put to death, is that the way G.I.s in South Viet Nam "win the hearts and minds" of the people? — Bottom: After a bout of street fighting in South Viet Nam — Are these exhausted G.I.s exhausted to pursue their war? — There is no grudge between Vietnamese and American people. Why killing each other? Let's hand in hand build up our friendship.

Puppet soldiers captured by P. L. A. F.

Fraternization between Liberation fighters and insurgents from Armoured Regiment No 1 of the puppet army.

VIET NAM COURIER

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MILITARY OPERATIONS

FIVE NORTHERN PROVINCES (FIRST TACTICAL AREA)

THE P.L.A.F. had mounted a series of attacks on three southern provinces of the First Tactical Area where fierce fighting is still raging, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported.

On July 23, early in the morning, P.L.A.F. artillery in Quang Nam province pounded the following targets in Da Nang:

- The U.S. air base known to be the most important in Southeast Asia;
- The Nuec Nam airfield;
- The logistic base of the U.S. Navy;
- U.S. advisers' billets;
- The H.Q. of U.S. special forces in the First Tactical Area.

In Quang Tin province, near Quang Nam, the P.L.A.F. hammered at Tam Ky provincial capital, 60 km southeast of Da Nang. Units of Division American stationed in the region were assaulted throughout July 23.

The same day, further south, in Quang Ngai pro-

vincial capital, the P.L.A.F. stormed many enemy positions: the H.Q. of puppet Division 2, police stations, provincial administrative offices, logistic bases, etc. The local police and police stations, by people's forces and 9 district capitals in the province attacked.

On July 24, the P.L.A.F. struck at the enemy in Hoi An town, 22 km southeast of Da Nang and provincial capital of Quang Nam. The P.L.A.F. guns shelled many enemy positions in the town while a storming party attacked the town defence line, causing many enemy casualties.

On the previous day, the P.L.A.F. had downed a R.F-4 Phantom reconnaissance plane, killing General Robert F. Worley, acting commander of U.S. 7th Army directing the air war in Viet Nam. He was the third American general officer killed in the war.

Western sources disclosed that on the night of July 22, over 100 big shells fell on a puppet Rangers' C.P. south of Hue, inflicting heavy losses on them.

In the week ending July 20, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported, the P.L.A.F. in two districts of Thua Thien province (capital: Hue) put out of action 400 enemy troops, mostly G.I.s, downed 3 planes and destroyed 3 cannons and 30 tents.

In the northernmost area, on Highway No. 9, incessant attacks were staged against enemy positions between Ca Lu and Con Tien held by U.S. Marines and puppet troops: the enemy lost 457 men put out of action, two planes downed, four 155 and 125mm guns and 6 military vehicles destroyed within 5 days (from July 10 to 23). Attention should be made of two battles in which the P.L.A.F. displayed a great fighting spirit: On July 10, they destroyed Hill 101, 4 km southwest of Con Tien, after causing 141 U.S. Marine casualties; and on July 21, in a 15 minutes' intense hand fight, they whittled down an enemy unit coming from Ca Lu position on the left flank of the enemy's defence system after his evacuation of Khe Sanh: 152 Marines put out of action.

The P.L.A.F. A.A. batteries were most efficient in this sector: 6 enemy planes knocked out of the sky between July 9 and 15.

SAIGON

IN Long An province (Me-Long Delta), on the night of July 22, the P.L.A.F. struck at one of U.S. Division 9, 28 km south of Saigon, causing to the enemy heavy losses in men and materials.

The same day, 120 km north of Saigon, near the Viet Nam - Cambodia frontier, the C.P. of Lao Nui sub-sector received about one hundred cars which touched off big fires and killed or wounded many enemy soldiers.

On July 21, 10 km southeast of Saigon, the Hoa Ba fuel depot was again bombarded by the P.L.A.F. Half a million litres of fuel went up in smoke. It is to be recalled that on the night of July 8, three 1.8 million-litre tanks of petrol, a storage of 1,000 drums of fuel as well as 20 storehouses of chemicals and other materials were destroyed by a fire caused by a similar P.L.A.F. artillery pounding. On the night of July 7, 3 million litres of petrol were burnt.

On the night of July 21, a P.L.A.F. shelling hit the southern tip of Go Cong, a provincial capital in the Mekong Delta, 50 km south of Saigon, and at Phan Rang town

(70 km northeast of Saigon), in South Central Viet Nam.

Giai Phong Press Agency has just given details of the clearing operation conducted by the enemy strategic reserve forces in Trang Bang and Go Da, 45 km northwest of Saigon, from June 28 to July 10: Fiercely engaged by P.L.A.F. regular forces, regional troops and guerrillas, the enemy took 1,400 casualties including 1,130 G.I.s; he had 110 tanks, armoured cars and lorries and seven 105mm guns destroyed, 30 aircraft downed, destroyed or damaged, many U.S. units put out of action including 2 companies, a platoon and a battalion C.P.

Besides the devastating blows from the P.L.A.F. shock units and regional troops, the enemy all over South Viet Nam was depleted by a guerrilla war which has reached a new high. *Giai Phong Press Agency* announced that, in 17 days ending July 14, the guerrillas in 8 provinces in the Saigon region and in the Mekong Delta put out of action 1,100 enemy troops, shot down 13 planes and choppers, destroyed six 105mm howitzers, sank 3 war vessels and combat launches, burnt 52 vehicles, mostly M-113 amphibious carriers and M-41 tanks.

The Young Girl of Saigon

WITH limpid eyes, a small straight nose, red lips and thick black hair hanging down over round shoulders, Phuong was a beautiful girl. As for Trinh, her friend, her beauty emanated from the melancholic expression of her face and the usual fathomless look of any quiet girl. Both became friends when they were mates at a secondary school. Their fathers were both teachers.

Living in this city, the two young girls were weary of the profligate, carefree life some people of their age were leading. They looked upon their friendship as a great source of comfort which saved them from the ennui felt by most young men and women confined in this oppressive city.

Then it came a day when Trinh suddenly disappeared. Phuong remained in Saigon, and day in day out she went to school, missing her absent friend very much. They did not hear from each other. Not until a year later did she receive a small message brought her by a stranger. The letter contained only a few lines: "Won't return. Wish Phuong come to me. We'll have a long, long talk when we meet again." Would she be wise to go and see her friend in the liberated zone? This thought nagged at her, disturbed her sleep. She packed up a few things, intended to go and see Trinh for a couple of days, not daring to stay. Nevertheless, she was nearly reached the place of rendezvous with her guide, she suddenly changed her mind and returned home. She

lacked the courage. She thought of her father and mother. She was loath to leave school and her orderly life...

But this morning she was waken up by barages of artillery fire which rumbled around the block of houses in which she lived. There was a knock at the door. She opened it and, to her surprise, she saw many people in the street, guns on their shoulders and carted loads around their waists. Before she could know where she was, someone gave her a hug.

"Trinh!" she burst out with joy but not without astonishment. "Trinh! I'm so really..."

"I am a P.L.A.F. guide now. I'm piloting them into the city for attacks against the U.S. and Thieu-Ky clique."

"Come in right away!"

"Not now. I must go and show our fighters the life of the land. I'll come back tomorrow. Would you mind sheltering them?"

Trinh fetched the fighters and introduced them to Phuong. She looked at Phuong, then said to one of the fighters, humbly: "Here's my pal often talked to about Hue. Well, Phuong, if you want to know something more about Hue, hesitate to ask him, but let our fighters have a rest this morning, they just fought a battle yesterday and had a night-long march."

Then she hurried off to the next house. "A careworn and cool young girl like Trinh has now become so alert and bubbling a combatant," Phuong

thought to herself and felt envious of her friend's life. The man Trinh introduced to her looked very young, about 20 years of age, but dressed with a broad forehead and bright eyes oozing by bushy eyebrows, he was not in his olive uniform. He did not seem to care for a rest and sat talking with her and other members of her family in all candour.

After a little chat the day broke. Gun-fire rattled on all sides. Enemy tanks and armed helicopters indiscriminately poured their bullets into the streets. Enemy troops came in large numbers and held the other side of the street. Civilians fled in panic, some looked for cover. Phuong assisted her new friend in occupying the third story of a house and remained by his side.

Guns kept clattering everywhere. The battlefront was well advanced: the P.L.A.F. holding this side of the street and the enemy the opposite side. N'S. Boulevards ran between the two contending forces. Shots whizzed down from rooftops, up from the ground or from a house corner to another, now sporadic, now concentrated. The young girl felt reassured by the P.L.A.F. interest and great amazement. She gazed at Minh - the fighter standing by her side - who was operating on the enemy. Several Yankees from a window of an opposite house were opening up with fire. Minh's deadly shots put down some of them. Phuong insisted on having a try at his weapon but he refused to let her. He waved her into safety. Every time he found her standing by his side, he



A Saigon woman militia

thought "Get into cover!" It was because he thought little regard for her but because he was anxious about her safety. She could see it in his look sometimes tender and sometimes angry. Previously, each time she came near to him, she was always sure of her charms and felt that he was dwarfed by them. But now, with Minh at her side, she did not know why she just felt unimportant and nothing more than a younger sister of his. She meekly obeyed him and even felt very pleased when he shouted at her. "No wonder Trinh did not often think of me on company with such a man." Phuong suddenly thought of her girl friend and cast a furtive look at the young fighter's eyes which were shining and moist for want of sleep.

Later in the day, the shooting became more and more sporadic. Only then did Minh begin showing her how to

handle the A.K. sub-machine gun and let her fire a long burst. Intense fire was heard again from different parts of the city, mingled with battle cries, as if to respond to her volley. She half opened the window and looked down. She saw the Liberation fighters dashing across the street. The enemy troops screamed in their flight.

Like a little child, the gate loud cheers and shouted at the top of her voice when she saw Trinh leading a Liberation detachment across the boulevard, press the attack home and seize the tall building in front of her. She cheered with admiration when she saw a comitant tumble down, hit by enemy fire but keep crawling forward, dragging on the ground, his abdomen and the other on his leg.

The block of houses on the other side of the street was now

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